

Appl. No. 10/643,394  
Reply to Office Action of February 27, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Support for the amendments to claim 1 and claims dependent thereon can be found on page 13, line 21 to page 14, line 3.

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 6 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Held et al. It is submitted that Held et al. (US 5,537,137) fail to disclose or render obvious the claims as presented in the earlier AMENDMENT for reasons stated at that time. However, to advance the prosecution, claim 1 has been amended to add a feature of the void volume, so as to overtly define the ink-jet recording sheet as a void type medium which distinguishes from Held et al.

Reconsideration of the arguments filed July 21, 2005 in view of the following, is requested. In the AMENDMENT filed July 21, 2005, it was pointed out that Held et al. was directed to a swelling type medium, not a void type medium as the present invention. Therefore it could not provide the primary basis for the art rejection as applied by the Examiner. Regarding the above argument, however the Examiner stated that:

"Applicants make the assumption that Held et al. is directed to a swelling type medium.

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But due to the range of pigment to binder ratios disclosed by Held et al., that is not at all clear."

In order to more directly show the difference between Held et al. and the present invention, Mr. Yoshinori Tsubaki, who is one of inventors of this application, did some experimental measurements to verify that the volume of the void disclosed in Held et al. is not within the claimed range, that is to say, Held et al. is directed to a swelling type medium.

Attention is directed to the results reported in the enclosed DECLARATION (near the end of page 2). The void volume of the samples representing held et al. is much less than that required by the present invention as now claimed.

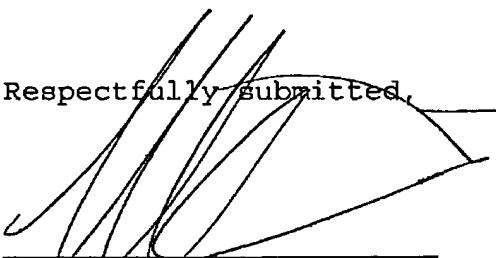
There are a number of provisional double patenting rejections. Reconsideration thereof in view of the amendments and the above explanation is requested. Withdrawal thereof if they are the only outstanding rejection, in accordance with Patent Office procedure, is requested.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the present invention is not shown or suggested by the cited art. Withdrawal

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of the rejections and allowance of the application are  
respectfully requested.

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Enc. EXECUTED DECLARATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.132 of  
Yoshinori TSUBAKI dated May 22, 2006